

Ohio EPA

Re: HMM  
RMI  
Ashtabula County

File  
EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



322531

Mr. Joe Holman  
Staff Environmental Engineer  
RMI Company Sodium Plant  
P.O. Box 550  
Ashtabula, Ohio 44004

October 15, 1981

Dear Mr. Holman:

This letter is written to confirm our meeting of September 30, 1981, at the Sodium Plant in Ashtabula. RMI was represented by you, Mr. Bernard Wilkens, Mr. O. Berteau, Mr. Larry Hanek and Mr. George Hakkio. Ohio EPA was represented by Gary Gifford, Chris Khourey and I. The subject of this meeting was the leachate outbreaks in the newly constructed ditch on the south side of the RMI's property.

You, Larry Hanek, Chris Khourey, Gary Gifford and I inspected the ditch at about 11:30 AM. We found several pools of a dark red liquid in the bottom sediments of the ditch. There was a strong odor, like that of chlorinated organics, in the area. Gary Gifford and I sampled this material by pipetting the leachate into an uncontaminated glass sampling jar supplied by the Ohio Department of Health. RMI's lab supplied the uncontaminated glass pipette. The sample was iced and locked in my car.

We reconvened at about 1:30 PM to discuss the leachate. RMI proposed lining the entire ditch with two feet of compacted clay in an attempt to prevent the contaminated leachate from surfacing. Also, RMI proposed raising the gradient of the ditch to transform the ditch into a gentle swale which would still carry runoff away from the closed landfill.

We also discussed the history of RMI's site. When RMI purchased the property there was a farmhouse on it. It is believed that there was a water well on site at that time. RMI has manufactured only sodium metal and chlorine at this site. At this time there seems to be no evidence linking RMI to the contaminated leachate. We will continue to investigate the source of this contamination.

The sample of leachate was split with RMI after the meeting.

We have no objection to RMI's proposal for preventing the leachate breakout. We appreciate RMI's concern for this situation and the precautions which

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were taken to prevent surface water pollution. Our sample of leachate has been received by the Ohio Department of Health Laboratories for analysis. We will inform you of the results as soon as we receive them.

Sincerely,

*Melinda Merryfield-Becker*  
Melinda Merryfield-Becker  
Solid Waste Scientist

MMB:mjo

cc: Ed Glod, C.O.  
Bill Skowronski, NEDO